

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A casting sand heating apparatus, comprising a furnace body, sand inlet, smoke discharge and dust removing port, hearth and sand outlet, wherein the sand inlet is arranged at the top of the furnace body, the combustion mouth is arranged in the lower part of the furnace body, in addition, a multi-layer heat exchange apparatus is arranged crisscrossly in the middle part of the furnace body.

2. (Original) The casting sand heating apparatus of claim 1, wherein the multi-layer heat exchange apparatus is comprised of multi-layer crisscrossly arranged laths.

3. (Original) The casting sand heating apparatus of claim 1, wherein the multi-layer heat exchange apparatus is comprised of multi-layer partitions with sieve holes.

4. (Original) The casting sand heating apparatus of claim 1, wherein the multi-layer heat-exchange apparatus is comprised of multi-layer crisscrossly arranged laths of casting refractory material.

5. (Currently Amended) The casting sand heating apparatus of claim 1 ~~or 2 or 3 or 4~~, wherein a sand inlet guidance apparatus is installed on the sand inlet.

6. (Original) The casting sand heating apparatus of claim 5, wherein the sand outlet is arranged at the bottom of the furnace body and near the side of the combustion mouth.

7. (Original) The casting sand heating apparatus of claim 6, wherein a dust removing duct is connected to the smoke discharge and the dust removing port, a cold air duct is connected to the dust removing duct.

8. (Original) The casting sand heating apparatus of claim 7, wherein a smoke return duct is installed at the outside wall of the furnace body, one end of the duct is connected to the dust removing duct, the other end is connected to the upper side of the combustion mouth on the wall of the furnace, a smoke circulating power apparatus is installed in the smoke return duct.

9. (Original) The casting sand heating apparatus of claim 8, wherein a check door is arranged on the lower part or at the bottom of the furnace body.

10. (New) The casting sand heating apparatus of claim 2, wherein a sand inlet guidance apparatus is installed on the sand inlet.

11. (New) The casting sand heating apparatus of claim 3, wherein a sand inlet guidance apparatus is installed on the sand inlet.

12. (New) The casting sand heating apparatus of claim 4, wherein a sand inlet guidance apparatus is installed on the sand inlet.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Daniel J. Hudak".

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